

Virginia Emergency Operations Center
Hurricane Katrina Impacts
Situation Report #9

Operational Period 0700 Hours September 8, 2005 to 0700 Hours September 9, 2005

SITUATION:

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a limited state of emergency within the Commonwealth on August 31, 2005, directing the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to coordinate state relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina. Following an evacuee care meeting with key state agencies and volunteer organizations, Governor Warner announced Virginia is offering to shelter a minimum of 4,000 evacuees. The Governor has requested a Presidential disaster declaration to assist with Virginia's relief effort.

Localities across the Commonwealth are receiving evacuees from Louisiana. The American Red Cross is providing assistance, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to the evacuees. The Governor has asked representatives from state, private and faith-based groups to assess the Commonwealth's capability to receive, house and coordinate services for additional evacuees from the Gulf Coast Region. Efforts are focused on providing one-stop shopping for sheltering, health and various government services at Fort Pickett.

Virginia continues to monitor fuel supply around the Commonwealth.

VEOC STATUS:

- The VEOC is currently in Response Operations

ONGOING STATE ACTIVITIES:

- **VDEM/VEOC**
 - Augmented with additional staffing from DFP, VSP, DHRM, Red Cross and DHS/FEMA.
 - Coordinating 58 open requests through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Disseminating EMAC requests to the appropriate State and/or local agencies.
 - Currently supporting 4 EMAC missions in Louisiana and 2 in Mississippi:
 - Community Relations Reservists personnel will deploy to Mississippi today.
 - Awaiting responses from requesting states to 29 proposals to respond on EMAC missions.
 - Establishing an Evacuee Reception Center/Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Fort Pickett.
 - Monitoring Hurricane Nate, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Ophelia.
- **DMME**
 - No widespread fuel shortage in the state. Continues to be spot shortages reported in Richmond, Tidewater, and Northern Virginia areas.
 - In process of working with EPA on extending Richmond RFG waiver, current waiver effective through September 23.

- **DOF**
 - Total of 64 personnel are deployed to assist with Katrina relief.
 - A 20 person crew is coordinating food and water distribution near Hammond, LA.
 - A 20 person crew is providing emergency related community assistance in the Town of Ocean Springs, MS.
 - Six 3 person chainsaw crews (18 people total) are clearing roads near Laurel, MS.
 - 5 personnel have been deployed in single resource positions on Type 1 IMT's in Meridian, MS and Baton Rouge, LA.
 - 1 person is serving as an Equipment Manager over rental/leased recovery equipment out of Houston, TX.

- **VDH**
 - The Virginia Beach Medical Reserve Corps (VBMRC) has deployed 5 volunteers to Montgomery, AL (to be further deployed).
 - Local Health Districts coordinating with partner agencies in support of self-deployed and private source assisted evacuees.
 - One planner from the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) on standby to deploy in support of DMORT operations as early as today.
 - VBMRC working locally with Red Cross Chapter to support evacuees arriving in the area by providing medical screenings at the Red Cross.
 - Two Registered Nurses from Chesapeake MRC have deployed – one to Montgomery, Alabama for further assignment and the other to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. 2 other registered nurses and one doctor are awaiting assignment. All are coordinated through the American Red Cross.
 - VDH Public Information Officer deployed to Texas on September 8 in support of FEMA.
 - Va. Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT)-1, 12 personnel deployed on 5 missions and 32 standing by for immediate deployment.
 - MCV Housing advises 280 single beds available.
 - Preparing VDH plans for support of evacuee sheltering at Ft. Pickett.
 - Established VDH Towne Pickett Response Team. Dr. Mark Levine, Henrico Health District Director and Piedmont Health Districts, is coordinating health response at Ft. Pickett to include personnel, equipment and logistics. Shelter health and medical support operations prepared to commence at 0800 September 9.
 - Self-deploying Medical Response Team from Sentara Systems has been put on hold. Sentara Systems, HCA and UVA Hospital team coordinating with VDH to provide medical assistance for evacuees at Ft. Pickett.
 - Virginia Office of EMS in cooperation with Old Dominion Emergency Medical Services Alliance (ODEMSA) and the Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads is coordinating additional ambulances and crews in response to evacuees arriving at Ft. Pickett.

- **VNG**
 - 151 of 225 National Guard personnel arrived in Jackson, Mississippi by plane September 6. The remaining 74 guardsmen arrived by convoy September 8 (EMAC).
 - Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) -VA plans for deployment of Joint Taskforce (JTF) Cardinal and 2 BN 116th INF.

- JFHQ-VA develops future capabilities support packages and continue planning for potential future security operations.
 - JTF Cardinal 1 conducts security and relief operations in support of 35th ID.
 - 2 BN 116th INF conducts security operations in support of 38th Infantry Division (ID).
 - 152 guardsmen and 29 airmen, mainly military police, arrived on September 5 in Alexandria, Louisiana. The guardsmen have been attached to the 35th Infantry Division and are now station at the Belle Chase Naval Air Station in Louisiana (EMAC).
 - Deployed 6 guardsmen with the 203rd Red Horse unit to the Belle Chase Naval Air Station in Louisiana (EMAC).
 - National Guard Fire Truck being deployed via C-5 Aircraft.
- **VSP**
 - Deployed VSP helicopter equipped with a hoist, staffed by two pilots is now in route back to Virginia (EMAC).
 - 120 Trooper Law Enforcement Task Force with a communication vehicle headed for Mississippi is on unrestricted standby basis.
 - Supporting parameter security at Fort Pickett.
- **VITA**
 - EMAC Request Summary information is posted on the On-Line EOC. Any On-Line EOC access issues should be directed to VITA Customer Care at 1-866-637-8482.
 - Continue to build out infrastructure in the Ft. Pickett facility in preparation for evacuees. This includes network access, cell coverage, and access to computer equipment. There are a number of personnel onsite assisting with this effort, and more are expected in the next several days.
 - Telecommunications vendors are partnering with VITA to provide the needed services.
- **VDSS**
 - Assessing Fort Pickett building layout for state services and benefits.
 - Developing a staffing pattern for operations at Fort Pickett.
 - Directing local offices to refer evacuees to local chapter of American Red Cross (ARC) and provide FEMA teleregistration number. After screening by ARC, DSS will process evacuees into appropriate program.
 - DSS provided guidelines to localities for providing assistance to evacuees
 - DSS Hotline – 1-800-777-8293 – For Faith Based Groups to offer temporary housing for evacuees – 81 organizations are in the database.
 - 190 State and Local Social Services employees are in the database to serve either one week in Virginia or two weeks in the impacted region if called upon.
 - 125 faith and community based organizations are in the database that can help with food, shelter and transportation.
- **VDFF**
 - Staffing to assist in EMAC and Legislative Affairs in VEOC.

- **SCHEV**
 - Provided a link for displaced students that offers information on colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth accepting enrollment - <http://www.schev.edu/Students/ResponseToKatrina.asp>.
- **VDACS**
 - Continue to track consumer reports of alleged gasoline price gouging and half-pricing through its Hotline number: 1-800-552-9963. To date there are 11 reported cases of fraud.
- **VDHCD**
 - Tasked with matching families and available housing in the communities.

LOCAL ACTIONS:

- Identifying resources for possible deployment to impact areas
- Monitoring fuel supply
- Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities
- Six person Incident Management Team from Arlington County deployed and on site working from the New Orleans Police Department Emergency Operation Center (EMAC).
- Virginia Beach Department of Human Services opened an evacuee Assistance Center on September 7. Over 300 evacuees are being assisted.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- American Red Cross has **958 open cases** and has assisted **1,841 individuals**. The largest concentrations of evacuees are in Hampton Roads, Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Fredericksburg and Richmond. No shelters have been reported open in Virginia at this time.
- Ft. Pickett may begin receiving evacuees early on September 9. The current estimate is that first influx will number 200-250 individuals. No firm information is available on the ultimate number of evacuees Virginia might receive or for how long the process of sending evacuees to Virginia would continue. Ft. Pickett is only accepting evacuees that have been sent to Virginia by FEMA. It is not a sheltering facility for evacuees currently in Virginia. A full array of disaster assistance services will be made available to evacuees. First and foremost, evacuees will be able to register with FEMA if they have not already done so.
- All state agencies with supporting roles have been notified and are setting up stations at Ft. Pickett. Transportation arrangements from Richmond International Airport and Ft. Pickett have not been finalized. Evacuees, upon arriving at Ft. Pickett will be questioned about short term and long term housing needs.
- Greater Richmond Area Red Cross and the Petersburg Chapter are set up to assist processing evacuees arriving at Ft. Pickett beginning tomorrow.
- Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC) is open to answer questions and field concerns from citizens. The VPIC telephone number is **866-880-4288**, hours of operation this week – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 110 calls reported for September 8. A total of 444 calls reported since VPIC opened on September 2.
- FEMA has set up a Donations Hotline at **800-440-6728**.
- Only 3 evacuees have reportedly registered with a current Virginia address through FEMA Teleregistrations. No data has been available from FEMA for the past three days.

- The Department of Health and Human Services has established a website (<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>) and toll-free number (1-866-KAT-MEDI) to help identify private sector health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.
- Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has been tasked by 1st Air Force and FEMA to be activated for operations in the Gulf Coast area.
- Responded to Delegate Plum's inquiry concerning constituent offer of multi-family housing in Northern Virginia. Constituent's offer referred to DSS and VPIC. Continuing to disseminate information to state legislators and Virginia's Congressional delegation.
- Public Affairs handled several media inquiries on the Commonwealth's response. Developed communications plan for the arrival of evacuees and coordinated with the Governor's office. Preparing to establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) at Ft. Pickett. Updated www.vaemergency.com with the latest information.

PROJECTED FUTURE ACTIONS:

- Conference calls with localities - Schedule to be provided separately.
- Continue to monitor fuel supply. Localities will advise VEOC of difficulties.
- Coordinate state relief efforts.
- Process EMAC requests.
- Continue to monitor evacuee situation with emphasis on Fort Pickett effort.
- Track mission assignments to state agencies for response actions.
- Implement external communications plan.

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